

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A decoding device for analyzing communication protocols, the decoding device having an input for receiving coded data and an output for providing decoded data, comprising:

a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the protocol descriptions being interpreted by the generic decoder during operation of the decoding device to ~~convert~~ decode the coded data at the input to the decoded data at the output; and

a specific decoder adapted to interpret a specific protocol, wherein ~~a specific an~~ element function of the generic decoder is overlaid by a corresponding element function of the specific decoder so the corresponding element function is interpreted by the generic decoder.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) The decoding device as recited in claim 6 wherein the generic and specific decoders are reversibly connected so each decoder is modifiable separately from the other.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method of setting up a decoding device comprising the steps of:

providing a generic decoder into which a limited number of protocol descriptions are loaded, the protocol descriptions being interpreted by the generic decoder to ~~convert~~ decode coded data at an input into decoded data at an output;

providing a specific decoder adapted to interpret a specific protocol;

connecting the specific and generic decoders to form the decoding device; and

overlaying ~~a specific an~~ element function of the generic decoder with a corresponding element function of the specific decoder so the corresponding element function is interpreted by the generic decoder.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8 wherein the connecting step comprises the step of reversibly connecting the specific and generic decoders so each decoder is modifiable separately from the other.